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Renee Conti

Date

July 21, 2004

Signature

Renee Conti

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: Johan Knevels, et al

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Conf. No.: 3749

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Group Art Unit: 1753

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Appln. No.: 10/056,919

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Examiner: Ta Hsung Tung

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Filing Date: January 25, 2002

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Attorney Docket No.: 926-62US (P09914US)

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Title: MEASURING DEVICE FOR DETERMINING THE OXYGEN ACTIVITY IN METAL
MELTS OR SLAG MELTS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1)

Enclosed are copies of each of the documents listed on the attached Information Disclosure Citation Form(s) PTO/SB/08A, which may be material to the patentability of this application and/or for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

The listed references were cited in a Preliminary Search Report (copy enclosed) dated June 18, 2004 from the French Patent Office concerning counterpart French Application No. 614 137 (French publication 0200865). All of the references cited in the French Search Report are cited as Category A (technological background), and all but one are cited with respect to claims 1-14 of the French application. Three of the references are also cited as Category D (cited in the application). These three references have already been cited by Applicant in prior Information Disclosure Statements and considered by the Examiner. Therefore, these three references, which are cited by the French Examiner for their entire document, have not been provided again in the present IDS. It is noted that EP 0 042 086 A is the European counterpart of DE 30 21 949 A1.

As to the two references not previously cited, the abstract of JP 06 258282 A is cited with respect to claims 1-14, referring to the abstract; and EP 0 544 281 A is cited with respect to claims 1-14, and referring to Figs. 11-13 of the European document.

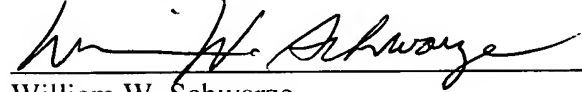
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that any of the listed documents constitutes prior art, nor as an admission against interest in any manner.

I hereby certify that each document cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a Preliminary Search Reported dated June 14, 2004 (copy enclosed) from the French Patent Office in counterpart French Application No. 614 137 (French publication 0200865, not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS).

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be considered and acknowledged by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, be made of record therein, and that the listed document(s) be cited in the issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,

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